

Bill Kleronomos
Extra Class Amateur Licensee KD0HG
5325 Getaway Drive
Berthoud, CO 80513

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My comments re: RM-10352
Petition for designated sub-bands based on emission types in the 160-meter band

To whom it concerns:

I have been a regular user of the 160-meter amateur band for many years, operating CW, SSB and AM modes. In pursuit of my use of this band, I have invested no small amount in a 140 foot tower for transmitting along with a pair of 800 foot 'Beverage' long wire antennas on my ranch property. Clearly, I have an interest in this band.

I am opposed to this petition for rulemaking for the following reasons:

The petitioners correctly claim that there is increasing use and occupancy of the 1.8 MHz band, however, in response to this, they are asking the Commission to designate what amounts to a "private reserve" of frequencies for their exclusive use. Allow me to point out that increasing use of the band adversely affects **all** users, regardless of mode. Why CW stations are deserving of special protection from interference has not been clarified in the petition. For example, the use of AM mode serves a valuable public service by providing training to amateurs in that particular technology, over the years this expertise has proven invaluable to the technical pool of talent available to this nation's broadcasting industry. By this reasoning, AM operations should be allocated an exclusive segment of the band in the national interest and to further the goals of the amateur service. The same logic can be applied to facsimile, Teletype, SSB and data modes as well. All have their public and amateur benefits yet none is deserving of exclusive spectrum.

I am finding that during heavy use of the 160-meter band by CW operations, for example, during operating contests, CW activity occupies spectrum from 1800 KHz to over 1875 KHz, causing temporary congestion to wideband modes; during heavy wideband/voice activity, such operations move down the band in an equal proportion, causing the temporary congestion that the petitioners claim is a burden to their operations. In all such cases, the key word is **temporary**. There is no irrevocable harm done to any amateur operator if their desired operating frequency is occupied for such short periods of time.

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The case can be made that the present structure without designated sub-bands is clearly the most efficient use of the spectrum, much as traffic lanes are reversed on congested highways in many urban areas to accommodate temporary changes in traffic patterns.

Finally, the petitioners fail to mention that much of the time, there is little or no CW activity present on the 160-meter band. On many evenings, I hear less than a half-dozen CW contacts in progress, sometimes none at all, while there are a number of wideband contacts occurring up the band- likely ten times as many. This imbalance clearly does not justify the exclusive, full-time allocation of over 20% of the 160-meter band for a narrowband mode using less than 250 Hz of bandwidth per station.

I believe the brand new voluntary 160-meter band plan offered by the ARRL should be given a chance to be promoted and work. It's my opinion that the majority of amateurs would be more than willing to comply with the plan's guidelines, if we give it a chance. This is not the 100% exclusivity the petitioners seek, but it should serve the purpose the vast majority of the time.

To summarize: I oppose this petition for rulemaking which seems designed for the sole purpose of benefiting CW contest operations to the detriment of all other amateur activity on the band. Insufficient justification has been given to justify the disenfranchising of wideband operations on the band. The vast majority of CW contest and DX operations occurs entirely within 25 KHz wide portions of the 80, 40, 20 and 15 meter amateur bands, and there is no justification whatsoever for allocating almost twice that amount of spectrum to the same sort of operation on the 160 meter band.

Respectfully submitted,
<signed>

Bill Kleronomos, KD0HG
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